



United States Attorney's Office  
Southern District of New York  
Civilian Crime Reports Unit  
Criminal Division

### Civilian Crime Report

The U.S. Attorney's Office represents the Government in legal proceedings and works closely with investigative agencies including the FBI. The Criminal Division of the United States Attorney's Office is responsible for enforcing the federal criminal laws within the Southern District of New York, which encompasses the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, as well as Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Westchester Counties.

**WE CANNOT CONSIDER INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL OR LEFT ON VOICEMAIL**

**Person Completing This Report:**

Louis Flores

Your Name

34-21 77th Street

Address

Apt. 406

Address (Line 2)

Jackson Heights, NY 11372

City, State

Queens

Zip

(929) 279-2292

County

Phone

**Person/Entity Being Reported:**

See Attachment 1

Name of Person Being Reported

New York City Council

Address

City Hall Park

Address (Line 2)

New York, NY 10007

City, State

New York

Zip

(212) 639-9675

County

Phone

Although the volume of information we receive from concerned members of the public prevents us from responding individually to every Report, be assured that we will carefully consider the information you have provided us to determine whether there is a matter for this Office to investigate. Should we determine that your Report raises a matter within the jurisdiction of this Office to investigate and that further information from you is necessary for our investigation, you will be contacted. This Office does not resolve individual consumer complaints.

**NOTE FOR INTERNATIONAL SUBMISSIONS**

We review for any appropriate action all submissions we receive. However, to avoid interference with the sovereignty of foreign nations, we do not respond to or acknowledge submissions from mailing addresses outside of the United States.

Does this Report Pertain to an Ongoing Case?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not Sure

If Yes, Please Provide the Following Case Information:

Case Title and Docket Number (if known):

Please clearly describe the violation of federal criminal laws that you would like to bring to our attention. Include as much information as possible; including the dates, places and nature of incident, and contact information for any witnesses (do not send original documents):

Eight New York City Councilmembers are campaigning for the City Council speakership. This campaigning is taking place before the November general election. It is against campaign finance law for speaker candidates to use their City Council campaign committees for the speaker's race. Speaker candidates are lobbying for the speakership without separate, dedicated speakership committees. See Attachment 2.

Are You a Victim of this Alleged Crime?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Are You Aware of Any Other Victim(s)?

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

If Yes, Please List Other Victim(s): Campaign finance corruption affects all voters and citizens.

Are You Represented by an Attorney in this Matter?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Please Provide Attorney Contact Info:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have You Filed a Lawsuit Concerning this Matter?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, Please Provide the Following Case Information:

Case Title and Docket Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Court Case (pending, dismissed, settled): \_\_\_\_\_

Have You Previously Filed a Report about this Matter with this Office or Any Other Federal, State or Local Agency(s)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, Date Filed: 20 Jan 2014 (originally)

Contact Person: Not Known.

Agency: U.S. Attorney's Office

Status of Previous Report: Not Known

By submitting this form you certify that all of the statements made in this report (including continuation pages and addendum) are true, complete, and correct, to the best of your knowledge. You understand that a false statement of a material fact is a criminal offense (18 U.S.C. Section 1001).

Signature: 

Date: 31 October 2017

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**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING THE PRESERVATION OF YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS:**

Submitting a Report to this Office has no effect on any statute of limitation that might apply to any claim you may have. By submitting a Report to this Office, you have not commenced a lawsuit or other legal proceeding, and this Office has not initiated an investigation or lawsuit regarding the subject of your Report. If you seek to sue for money or other relief, you should contact a private attorney to represent you in court.

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Mail this completed report to:

United States Attorney's Office  
Southern District of New York  
Attn: Civilian Crime Reports Unit (Criminal Division)  
One St. Andrew's Plaza  
New York, NY 10007

## **Attachment 1**

Councilmember Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., New York City Council  
Councilmember Corey Johnson, New York City Council  
Councilmember Mark Levine, New York City Council  
Councilmember Donovan Richards, New York City Council  
Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, New York City Council  
Councilmember Ritchie Torres, New York City Council  
Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, New York City Council  
Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams, New York City Council

**Attachment 2**

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**Re: City Council Speaker's Race 2017 - Inquiry**

From: Matthew Sollars <MSollars@NYCCFB.INFO>

Date: 10/30/2017 11:22PM

To: Louis Flores <louisflores@louisflores.com>

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Thanks for writing.

Best

Matt

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 30, 2017, at 10:58 PM, Louis Flores <[louisflores@louisflores.com](mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com)> wrote:

There are 8 City Council speaker candidates, and they have already met with U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley (<http://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2017/10/26/new-york-congressional-delegation-expected-influence-city-council-speaker-race>) before the November General Election.

There is a Council speaker debate happening this week -- before the November General Election (<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/events-calendar/details/4/3472050>).

Do you honestly think that ANY of the Council speaker candidates are having meetings with Boss Crowley or going into a debate without being advised or handled or coached or trained by campaign consultants? Are the Council speaker candidates receiving their Council speakership race advising, handling, coaching, and training from their City Council campaign committee consultants? Is the Council speakership race advising, handling, coaching, and training happening for free?

There is another Council speaker candidate "debate" scheduled for Nov. 13 (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nyc-city-council-speaker-candidate-forum-on-human-services-tickets-39183738617>).

The only reason anybody held MMV and the corrupt The Advance Group accountable four years ago was because of my activism, blogging, and the complaint I filed with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and it looks like I'm going to have to do some or all of this again, this year.

I would never file a complaint with the CFB. You guys don't do anything until after the speaker race has been fixed, anyway.

I'm going to print out this e-mail and attach it to my complaint to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Louis Flores  
1 (929) 279-2292  
[louisflores@louisflores.com](mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com)

*On Mon, 30 Oct 2017 13:48:46 +0000, Matthew Sollars wrote:*

Dear Mr. Flores –

Thanks very much for your email(s). CFB staff will review the material you have sent to us. If you wish to file a formal complaint with the Board, here is the information on how to do so:

<http://www.nyccfb.info/law/file-complaint/>

All the best,

Matt

Matt Sollars

Director of Public Relations

NYC Campaign Finance Board

[msollars@nyccfb.info](mailto:msollars@nyccfb.info)

(212) 409-1771

Cell: (646) 265-6368

[www.nyccfb.info](http://www.nyccfb.info)

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And Facebook [www.facebook.com/nycvotes](http://www.facebook.com/nycvotes)

100 Church Street, 12th Floor

New York, NY 10007

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**From:** Louis Flores [<mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 9:06 AM

**To:** Matthew Sollars <[MSollars@NYCCFB.INFO](mailto:MSollars@NYCCFB.INFO)>

**Cc:** [louisflores@louisflores.com](mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com)

**Subject:** Re: City Council Speaker's Race 2017 - Inquiry

Hi, Mr. Sollars :

Also, the 8 City Council speaker candidates have an event coming up for Nov. 13, which means that there is already activity for the Speakership race going on right now -- before the November general election.

LINK : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nyc-city-council-speaker-candidate-forum-on-human-services-tickets-39183738617>

How can this be allowed ? These candidates should have a formed, dedicated Speakership committee that is separate from their committees to reelect. Any of these candidates, who does not have a formed, dedicated Speakership race committee is flouting the City's campaign finance law.

How can any Speaker candidate be doing work for a speakership campaign that requires campaign consultants ? Campaign consultants have to get paid. If nobody is getting paid, that implies that campaign consultants are working for free, which is disallowed, as was determined in the case of Council Speaker Mark-Viverito's own 2013 campaign.

LINK : <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/07/nyregion/mark-viverito-new-york-council-speaker-pays-fine-to-end-conflict-case.html>

Do I have to file another complaint with the U.S. Attorney's Office to get somebody to pay attention to this ?

-- Louis

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Louis Flores  
1 (929) 279-2292  
[louisflores@louisflores.com](mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com)

*On Sun, 29 Oct 2017 07:12:35 -0400, Louis Flores wrote:*

Hi,

I'm back -- looking at the next City Council speaker's race, and I have a concern. Again, I believe that City Councilmembers are using the funds in their City Council campaign committee accounts for the speaker's race. This misuse of money has been reported in the news, and nobody has denied it.

I outline below the steps that make clear that there is misuse of City Council campaign committee money taking place.

1/. Four years ago, Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito formed a dedicated campaign

committee to run for speaker : <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20140115/BLOGS04/140119914/mark-viverito-spent-big-on-speaker-race>

2/. City Council campaign committees cannot be used for anything past Election Day :

<http://nypost.com/2015/10/09/melissa-mark-viverito-fined-over-consulting-payments-connected-to-re-election/>

3/. Thus, the only purpose of a City Council campaign committee account is for the primary or general election. Using a City Council Campaign committee account for the speaker race is disallowed. See why Councilmember Mark-Viverito formed a dedicated campaign committee to run for speaker :

Under city election rules, Ms. Mark-Viverito was not allowed to spend money from her 2013 campaign account for the speaker race. She was also not allowed to spend money from a "transition committee" meant to pay only for inauguration activities. And she was likewise not allowed to yet set up a new 2017 campaign committee with the city Campaign Finance Board.

Instead, on Nov. 5, she set up a 2017 campaign committee for an as-to-be-determined city office, according to the state Board of Elections, and then spent on the speaker race.

LINK : <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20140115/BLOGS04/140119914/mark-viverito-spent-big-on-speaker-race>

4/. If Councilmembers are using their City Council campaign committees for the speakership race, they are violating Municipal Election Law, and the Municipal campaign finance regulatory authority needs to step up its scrutiny of this spending, order clawbacks of any spending that violate Municipal campaign finance regulations, assess fines and penalties if necessary, and make referrals of any findings to appropriate law enforcement agencies if any major corruption laws have been broken.

5/. It has been reported that Councilmembers are using funds from the City Council campaign committee accounts to make expenditures related to the City Council speaker race :

A number of City Council Members who are jockeying to replace Melissa Mark-Viverito as the next Speaker of the City Council seem to be stepping up efforts to curry favor with their colleagues and other elected officials through strategic campaign donations.

The latest campaign finance disclosures filed on Monday show that Council Members Corey Johnson, Mark Levine, Ydanis Rodriguez and Jumaane Williams -- all contenders for Speaker of the 51-member legislative body -- have made significant contributions to fellow Council members and candidates running for open City Council seats. Other Speaker candidates -- Council Members Donovan Richards, Jimmy Van Bramer and Robert Cornegy -- also made similar, but smaller contributions.

LINK : <http://www.gothamgazette.com/city/7077-council-speaker-contenders-spread-the-wealth-to-colleagues>

6/. How is it being allowed that Councilmembers can misuse funds from their City Council campaign committee account for the speaker's race – given that the Campaign Finance Board presumably gave Councilmember Melissa Mark-Viverito guidance in 2013 that a City Council campaign committee account could not be used for the speaker's race ?

I saw that the Campaign Finance Board already proactively fined NY-CLASS (again) for violations in this election cycle : <http://nypost.com/2017/10/26/nyc-animal-rights-group-fined-for-campaign-finance-violations/>

If you guys can be proactive about stopping this year some of the same campaign corruption that took place in 2013 with NY-CLASS, why can't you stop campaign corruption in this year's speaker's race ? Why can't you be proactive about the speaker's race ?

I am going to see what can be done, bc this should not be being allowed.

-- Louis

Louis Flores  
1 (929) 279-2292  
[louisflores@louisflores.com](mailto:louisflores@louisflores.com)